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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Date of Deposit: October 21, 2003

Applicant(s): H. HASHI et al

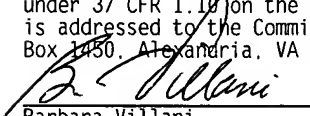
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Barbara Villani

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.